

COLLECTING ON BISCAYNE BAY.

BY ANNIE TRUMBULL SLOSSON.

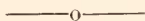
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But there are other collecting grounds besides the deserted camp. I spend many hours along the shore of the bay. There are several accessible stretches of sandy beach where at low tide I find some interesting things. Under wet seaweed or beneath bits of coral rock or pieces of wood are many beetles, some very rare ones. But it is not easy to discover or to capture them, for there are so many other living creatures to distract the eye and mind. As one turns over a heap of seaweed, hundreds of small shrimplike crustaceans, "sand flees" as they are called—jump and wriggle about in a bewildering way. As they strike the sand there is a pattering sound as of rain drops. Then large brown shining ear wigs glide rapidly out from under the seaweed, looking much like big *Staphylinidae*, or slender Carabs. Pinkish earthworms crawl sluggishly along, tiny ants run on the sand, and occasionally an immature cricket, soft and pallid, hops up. All this movement and life is at first distracting, but the trained eye soon learns how to distinguish readily what it seeks. *Platynus floridensis*, a graceful Carab of greenish black runs swiftly out, *Bembidium constrictum* darts from the heap of seaweed and *Ardistomis obliqua* with its two bright red oblique spots steals out more slowly. Here too I always find *Tachys capax*, a tiny beetle of shining black, with pale legs and antennæ, and *Anthicus vicinus*, more slender and graceful. I have taken here also *Loxandrus floridensis*, *L. celer*, *Todes lecontei*, *Dyschirius hæmorrhoidalis*, *Chlenius circumcinctus*, *Ardistomis schaumii*, *Attenuus cognatus*, *A. gracilis*, and several others. There are also many Staphylinids, the most common one being the little *Bledius basalis* which is always running over the white sand. *Philonthus alumnus* is also plentiful, while there are two or three species of *Stenus* and at least two of *Sunius*. When tired and stiff with sitting on the damp sand I change my position, take my net and going to the sandy stretch a little farther from the water I chase tiger-beetles, flies, and aquatic bugs. There are two or three species of *Satta* which fly over the sand, one of them very pale in color, almost white and very difficult to detect on the white sand. In diptera there are some very pretty Dolichopodidæ, most of them of whitish green, to harmonize with the tints of the shore, an occasional robber fly and *Borborus venalicus* by thousands. I find also on the damp sand a species of the little three-toed cricket, *Tridactylus*, looking like a miniature mole-cricket. It is very agile and hard to capture. Still farther back from the water and on higher ground grow many flowers, and there I hunt bees, wasps, butterflies and bugs till time to wend my way homeward over the glaring white, hot coral road.

Sometimes I spend a morning on the Miami River in a rowboat. We row along the shore under the mangrove and search the leaves for larvæ on cocoons. Here can be watched the whole life history of the dark blue butterfly, *Erycides batabano*, which was fully recorded a year or two ago by Dr. Dyar. It is a beautiful life in every phase, from egg to imago. It is still fascinating to me, after seeing it so many times, to peep into the carefully folded mangrove leaf fastened with finest, strongest silk, and see the lonely larva of rich purple red, the color he wears until his last moult. Then he becomes quite a different creature, of soft bluish white with head still of crimson. Then comes the graceful white chrysalis and last the butterfly of rich dark blue. On the mangrove too the little white moth, *Eupoeya slossonia* lives its life. The genus is no longer *Eupoeya*, but I have forgotten its latest name and have nothing here to tell me of it. The larvæ are lovely, soft, silvery green things, hard to distinguish when flattened and motionless on the green leaves, and the small white cocoon of parchment-like texture is a dainty cell in which to await its snow white wings. Among the mangroves fly several species of small dragon flies, easily caught from the boat with a net. And over and across the blue water are always flying scores of little gray and white Pyralid moths, a species of *Nymphaella*, I think; perhaps the same one we have by our northern waters, *N. maculalis*. They often fly within reach of our nets, sometimes even coming into the boat and resting there. Our mornings among the mangroves are pleasant ones. It is an indolent, luxurious way of collecting, not such hard work as grubbing in wet sand or hunting under dank seaweed, and I like it for a change. Sometimes we take a little naphtha launch and go far up the river almost to the everglades. There, the other day, I landed and hunted about for half an hour. I took, for the first time on the east coast, *Burtia belæ*, a pretty day flying moth, with scarlet body and transparent wings. I have taken many at Punta Gorda on the west coast, but these are much larger than any I have seen there. I took also the other day, on some flowers near the river, a moth I suppose to be *Harrisina australis*, Stretch. The type came, I think, from Florida. It is greenish black, with orange collar, and about the size of *H. americana*, perhaps a trifle larger. I caught too a ragged specimen of the butterfly *Apatura flora*, the first I have taken. Butterflies and moths are not nearly so abundant as in former years. The freezing weather of February 13th and one or two later cool waves destroyed much insect life. The flowering plants, too, were killed or temporarily injured, leaving few blossoms to attract insects. Our evenings have been very cool, as a general thing, and I have had little success in collecting at light. Last week a warm, still evening, following light showers, brought hundreds of beetles to the lighted piazzas. But the number of species was small. *Ptilodactyla serricorne* came in great numbers, and

there were *Ardistonis obliqua*, *Oodes lecontei* and scores of *Selenophorus palliatus*.

But one evening I found on the floor under an electric light a specimen of *Casnonia ludoviciana* the second I have ever taken. The first I found at Lake Worth in the sand near the water. I have taken also at light this season two specimens of the handsome longicorn, *Euryscelis suturalis*, Oliv. It is much like a *Neoclytus* in appearance. Another showy longhorned beetle not uncommon at light is *Lagochirus araneiformis*. *Elaphidion inerme* is abundant, two or three species of *Laptostylus* come occasionally, as does also *Hippopsis lemniscata*.



DESCRIPTION OF HAPLOA TRIANGULARIS N. SP.

BY JOHN B. SMITH, SC. D.

Ground color white; the markings smoky brown or blackish; head rusty or orange yellow; legs of the same color, save that the anterior and middle tibiae and tarsi are black; antennae black; collar red or orange yellow, with two black or brown spots at the centre; thorax with a blackish band through the centre and this is continued more or less obviously over the centre of the abdomen. There is a yellowish shading at the junction of the thorax and abdomen, and in the male the anal tufting is also tinged with yellow or rusty. The primaries have a black or brown costal stripe which extends nearly to the apex. A similar stripe extends along the inner margin, but does not quite reach the base. There is a narrow outer margin, which may or may not reach the apex and rarely reaches the inner angle. From the inner angle, in fully marked specimens, a stripe runs diagonally toward the costa, which it reaches about $\frac{1}{3}$ from base. From the middle of this stripe runs another, reaching the outer margin just below the apex. This leaves a triangular white patch just within the outer margin above the inner angle, and a narrow white band from the basal third to the apex. This band in fully marked specimens is divided by two narrower smoky bands into three white spots. In this case there is a broad white stripe running approximately through the centre of the wing below the median vein, but not reaching the inner angle. A large white triangular spot just above the inner angle and three white spots below the costa, the outer covering the apex. This complete maculation is rarely present. The first break occurs in the narrow cross bands separating the three white spots, and then we have a continuous white shading extending below the costa to the apex. The next to break is the connection between the white stripe running below the median vein and the triangular white spot above the inner angle. Finally, the connection between the oblique stripe running below the apex is broken, and this leaves as the simplest marking a